

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR BELL, MINYARD, ARS, AMS, OIG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD UR

SUBJ: GRAIN QUALITY TEAM

1. SUMMARY: ATTACHE AND TEAM MET WITH EXPORTKHLEB MONDAY MORNING AND AGAIN WITH EXPORTKHLEB, AND OFFICIALS OF MINPROCUREMENT, STATE GRAIN INSPECTION, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR GRAIN AND MINAG IN THE AFTERNOON. MEETINGS WENT VERY WELL AND CENTERED ON TWO PROBLEM AREAS: (1) INSECT INFESTATION AND PREVENTION BY FUMIGATION AND (2) CRACKED KERNELS OR ADMIXTURE BY SOVIET TERMS. END SUMMARY.

2. INSECT PROBLEM AREA: THE USSR TOLERANCE FOR INSECT INFESTATION IN GRAIN IS ZERO AND THIS REGULATION IS STRICTLY ADHERED TO. CURRENTLY THE SOVIETS FUMIGATE GRAIN WITH METHYL-BROMIDE. SIMILAR APPLICATION IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR THE U.S. BECAUSE OF REGULATIONS REGARDING SAFETY OF WORKERS AND THE DESIGN OF SHIP STRUCTURES. MALATHION MOREOVER IS NOT DOING THE JOB FOR THIS DISTANCE OF HAUL.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS THE SOVIETS DID AGREE FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE USE OF 80/20. HOWEVER WE NEED TO DO MORE WORK IN THIS AREA, PARTICULARLY IN FINDING A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO INSURE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF 80/20 IN TANKERS. TANKERS ARE A KEY PART OF OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEM. IF WE WISH TO CONTINUE SELLING CORN AND WHEAT TO THE

USSR, WE MUST FIND SOLUTIONS FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF 80/20 AND/OR NEW FUMIGANT IN ORDER TO MEET THE ZERO TOLERANCE REQUIREMENT ON WEEVILS IN OUR GRAIN.

4. CRACKED CORN: SOVIET REGULATIONS CURRENTLY PROHIBIT THE FEEDING OF CORN CONTAINING MORE THAN 15 PERCENT ADMIXTURES TO POULTRY. EXPORTKHLEB HAS ALSO HAD TO DISCOUNT U.S. CORN SOLD TO ITS CLIENTS BECAUSE OF LOWER QUALITY. BOTH PROBLEMS ARE SIGNIFICANT TO THE SOVIETS.

5. DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON THE GRAIN STANDARDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. WHILE THE STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY OF SAMPLING IS SIMILAR, THE SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND DEFINITIONS ARE DIFFERENT, THUS WIDE DIFFERENCES OCCUR IN THE RESULTS.

6. THE SOVIETS WERE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE OPEN DISCUSSION ON GRADING AND INSPECTION PROCEDURES FOR GRAIN IN THE U.S. AND THE U.S. TEAM BENEFITED EQUALLY FROM THE OPEN DISCUSSION ON SOVIET PROCEDURE AND STANDARDS.

7. AMS TENTATIVELY PLANS TO GRADE TWO OR THREE OF THE NEXT CARGO SHIPMENTS BY BOTH COUNTRY STANDARDS AND WILL SUBMIT THE ANALYSIS AND RESULTS TO EXPORTKHLEB THROUGH FAS AND THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE. THIS PROPOSAL WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER WE WOULD POINT OUT AGAIN THAT TANKERS (DESIGN AND STRUCTURE OF VESSEL) REMAIN AS A THORNY PROBLEM IN GETTING GOOD ARRIVAL SAMPLES AS WELL AS A FACTOR IN CAUSING MORE CRACKING.

8. TEAM PLANS TO DEPART FOR ODESSA ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON TO OBSERVE UNLOADING PROCEDURES AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES. WILL RETURN WEDNESDAY EVENING AND EXPORTKHLEB HAS SCHEDULED MEETING FOR THURSDAY MORNING.

9. DEPARTURE FOR U.S. SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY THURSDAY EVENING. STOESEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD INSPECTION, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES, VISITS, GRAINS, PESTS OF PLANTS, INSECTICIDES  
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**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1975  
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